IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 16, line 21 through page 17, line 2, rewrite the paragraph as follows:

(4)   It is judged whether or not the data transmission along the closed loop extracted in step 614 is possible in the target machine cycle or not. This judgement is performed in such a manner that the product of the target machine cycle MC 605 input and the cycle number CYC required for the data transmission along the closed loop, determined in step 615, may be compared with the total delay DLY of delay in each path in the closed loop determined in step 615. That is, when DLY > MC × CYC is held, ~~NG~~ NO is judged (step 616).

Page 17, lines 3-11, rewrite the paragraph as follows:

(5)   If the judgement of step 616 is ~~NG~~ NO, the information of the paths in the closed loop is displayed. Then, based on this information displayed, designers perform changes of cells and changes of connection relations of pins as logic modifications, or moves of layout positions of cells and modifications of wiring patterns as modifications of packaging results, and thus feed back the results to the information file 601.

Page 17, lines 12-15, rewrite the paragraph as follows:

(6)   When the judgement of step 616 is ~~OK~~ <u>YES</u>, a clock-

delay-adjusting range is set to each path, which permits data

transmission to each flip-flop so as to satisfy the

constraints shown in the following: